

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed on October 29, 2007 and the Advisory Action mailed January 17, 2008. Applicants respectfully traverse (and do not concede) all objections, rejections, adverse statements, and adverse assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment and request for continued examination, claims 4 and 15 are amended. Please cancel claim 25 without prejudice. Claims 4 and 15 remain pending.

Formal Matters

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the brief telephone conference on February 21, 2008 where the amendments that are detailed below were discussed. During the telephone conference, the Examiner indicated that amendments that add language reciting that the cutting members/blades are for severing or breaking up a lesion would move the claimed invention closer to allowance, although some additional searching may also be necessary.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vigil et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,320,634 in view of Parodi in U.S. Patent No. 5,250,070. Claims 4 and 15 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lary in U.S. Patent No. 6,306,151 in view of Parodi. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In the continuation sheet of the Advisory Action, the Examiner recommended “incorporating structural or function requirements used in their arguments (ie - cutting members for severing or breaking up lesions) to further define the cutting member and traction region and place a requirement of severing or breaking up of lesion into the claims.” This recommendation suggests that such an amendment would define the claimed invention over the cited art. Applicants have made the recommended amendments. In particular, claim 4 is amended to recite one or more cutting members for severing or breaking up a lesion affixed to the balloon. Similarly, claim 15 is amended to recite a cutting blade for severing or breaking up a lesion affixed to the balloon.

Applicants respectfully submit that these claim amendments distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. For example and as indicated by the Examiner, neither Vigil et al.

nor Lary disclose undulations curve from side-to-side relative to the longitudinal axis on the traction region of a cutting member or cutting blade. Parodi only discloses features along the exterior of a balloon that are designed to reduce damage and/or cutting. The teachings of Parodi cannot properly be applied to a cutting member/blade for severing or breaking up a lesion. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 4 and 15 are patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

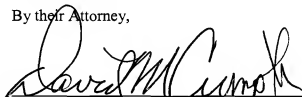
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

Date: _____

2/29/07



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